

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9464

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3306

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJ: CABLE FROM SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

THE FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL CABLE TO THE AMBASSADOR WAS RECEIVED FROM SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON FEBRUARY 22. WE ARE PREPARING COMMENTS WHICH WE EXPECT TO CABLE TO SENATOR KENNEDY THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 24.

QUOTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW A MUTUAL FRIEND OF OURS FATHER ROBERT CHARLEBOIS WAS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN CAMBODIA WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

QUOTE IN THE COURSE OF A WARM CONVERSATION WITH THE FATHER I WAS PRIVILEGED TO LEARN OF THE DEEP RESPECT HE HOLDS FOR YOU AND YOUR IMPORTANT WORK DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR CAMBODIA. FATHER CHARLEBOIS RAISED SOME DISCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE TRAGIC PLIGHT OF THE CAMBODIA PEOPLE TODAY AS A RESULT OF THE INTENSE FIGHTING IN AND AROUND PHNOM PENH AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE. AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE, I SHARE YOUR DEEP CONCERN OVER OUR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IN ORDER THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE REMAIN ABREAST OF THE CURRENT RELIEF PROBLEMS IN CAMBODIA I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO RESPOND TO A FEW CONCERNS OF MINE RELATING TO THE STATUS OF THE HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAM. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

1. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE THE

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SUBCOMMITTEE WITH AN ESTIMATION OF THE AMOUNT OF FOOD

ARRIVING ON THE PRESENT AIRLIFT WHICH WILL BE ASSIGNED FOR
USE BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

2. WILL THE EMBASSY GUARANTEE BUDGET FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
UNTIL JUNE 1, 1975 SO THAT CATHOLIC RELIEF AND OTHER VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES CAN FORMULATE A MORE DIFINITE PROGRAM OF RELIEF
ASSISTANCE.

3. WOULD THE EMBASSY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH
THE ACTUAL DOLLAR OUTLAY THIS FISCAL YEAR FOR REFUGEE RELIEF
ASSISTANCE.

4. HAVE YOU FELT THAT THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION PROGRAM
IS RECEIVING FUNDS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIVERTED FROM VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES DURING THIS EMERGENCY. IF SO, CAN SOME GREATER PARITY
BE RESTORED.

5. MORE PARTICULARLY WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO
RELEASE DOLLAR SUPPORT COSTS FOR CRS AND OTHERS SO THAT THEY
WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE WITHOUT RESORTING SO HEAVILY UPON
LOCAL CREDIT.

QUOTE FINALLY MR. AMBASSADOR I WANT TO EXTEND TO YOU MY
DEEP FEELING OF ADMIRATION FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN CAMBODIA.
I REALIZE THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE
CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF THE NATION AND I WISH TO
OFFER MY ASSISTANCE TO YOU IN THIS DIFFICULT TASK. PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME IN THE DAYS AHEAD IF THERE IS
ANYTHING I CAN DO IN THESE EFFORTS. TILL THEN BEST WISHES
TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF. SINCERELY, EDWARD M. KENNEDY UNQUOTE.
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